

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives request signals transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing responsive signals over said network for display by said requesting users, a ~~The method of performing computer based processes to processing~~ online auction-style listings and provide associated responsive signals for display, said method comprising:

~~setting recording~~ a predetermined listing and end time for an auction style listing stored in a computer memory to end;

receiving, from users over the network, signals representing bids with respect to said auction style listing ~~before said listing and time;~~

automatically extending said predetermined end time if signals represented a bid for said auction-style listing are ~~is received near the predetermined listing end time; and~~

sending responsive signals to users over the network for display, said sent responsive signals indicating at least that said predetermined end time is extended.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said automatically extending further extends said already extended end time upon receiving signals over the network representing additional bids after said end time has been extended.

21. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A computer-based online auction-style listing service comprising:

maintaining a database of auction-style listings, said database including geographical location of listed items;

a user interface requesting a ~~potential bidder~~ user to input the bidder's user's geographical location; and receiving signals from the user representing a geographical user location; and

~~searching~~ said database searching at least in part in response to the geographical user location representing signals for items that are within proximity to the represented geographical user location; ~~for~~ and sending signals to said user over the network for use in displaying at least primarily items that are within proximity to the bidder's specified geographical user location;

wherein said user interface communicates signals with said user to facilitate receipt from the user of signals representing bids on items that are within proximity to the represented geographical user location;

22. (currently amended) The ~~method-service~~ as in claim 21 wherein
said potential bidder specifies geographical user location with the user's zip
code, and said ~~method-service~~ further includes a calculator for calculating a
geographical proximity based at least in part on the specified zip code.

23. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer
system of the type that receives request signals transmitted over a network
from users and responds by providing at least signals over said network for
display by said requesting users, A a method of performing computer
based processes to providing signals over the network relating to online
auction-style listings, the method comprising:

maintaining a database of items available for auction-style listing;
receiving signals allowing sellers to specify whether items are to be
listed in said database as conditional or binding transactions; ~~and:~~
in response to user request signals received over the network,
generating and sending signals over the network representing displays in
of (a) the conditional or binding characteristic of an item listing, and (b)
with at least some other information relating to the item; and
receiving further signals representing offers to purchase the item over
the network that lead to change in state of the ownership of the item.

24. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives request signals transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing at least signals over said network for display by said requesting users, [[A]] a method of providing online listing services and comprising:

maintaining at least one database of items listed for sale;
sending, over the network, signals representing a user interface
~~displaying~~ display of at least some of said items in a classified advertising listing format; sending, over the network, signals representing a user interface ~~displaying~~ display of at least others of said items in an auction-style listing format; and

allowing sellers, through automatic interaction with the computer system, to select item listings and flexibly change selected item listings
between said classified advertising and said auction-style listing formats.

25. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives request signals transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing at least signals over said network for display by said requesting users, A a method of providing online transaction services comprising:

storing auction-style listings in a database;

allowing potential bidders to search through and request selectively selective display of at least some of said database contents via signals exchanged over a network;

accepting signals representing bids from users and providing signals representing at least some information concerning said bids to corresponding sellers; and

allowing sellers whose items have been bid upon to use the network to issue offers to sell items users have bid on to ~~corresponding bidders~~; while temporarily suspending auction-style listings for predetermined durations, thereby preventing other users from submitting bids on said suspended auction-style listings when corresponding unaccepted offers to sell from sellers to users for said items are outstanding.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~wherein said service further including~~ allows allowing sellers to issue offers to sell to high bidders before listing expiration, and ~~allows~~ allowing sellers to issue offers to sell to any bidders after a listing expiration.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~wherein said service allows~~ further including allowing sellers to issue set offers to sell after auction-style listing expiration.

28-37 (canceled)

38. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives request signals transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing at least signals over said network for display by said requesting users, a [[A]] method of providing online auction-style listing services comprising:

storing information relating to items for sale auction-style in a computer database;

scheduling auction-style listings and associated end times associated with said listed items; and

posting auction style listings on a web page for viewing by users, said auction style listings soliciting competitive bids while concealing predetermined prices the seller will accept to sell items;

receiving, from users over the network, signals representing competitive bids with respect to said auction style listings; and

in response to a bid received before the end of an auction style listing, allowing authorized sellers to accept bids and unilaterally end auction-style listings prior to before said end times.